

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining ~~monitoring~~ the cardiovascular condition of a patient relative to a patient's sleep disordered breathing while treating sleep disordered breathing comprising the steps of:

delivering positive airway pressure at therapeutic levels for treatment of sleep disordered breathing with a pressure delivery device,

detecting and recording breathing-related events associated with the treatment of the patient's sleep disordered breathing,

adjusting delivery of positive airway pressure based on detected events,

storing information concerning the breathing and cardiovascular condition of the patient and delivered positive airway pressure over time, and

~~correlating relating to each other the stored information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient, and the recorded events associated with the patient's breathing, and treatment of the patient's sleep disordered breathing so as to determine changes in the cardiovascular condition of said patient, and~~

determining changes to said patient's cardiovascular condition relative to changes in breathing and changes in delivery of positive airway treatment.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring the cardiovascular condition of a patient while treating sleep disordered breathing in accordance with claim 1 wherein said step of detecting and recording breathing-related events associated with

the treatment of the patient's sleep disordered breathing includes detecting and recording data related to at least one of apneas, hypopneas, partial obstructions, snoring, pressure versus time, flow versus time, and leaks.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for treating respiratory disorders and simultaneously monitoring a patient for indications of cardiovascular disease comprising the steps of:

delivering positive airway pressure at therapeutic levels for treatment of respiratory disorders with a pressure delivery device,

detecting and recording as a function of time breathing-related events ~~associated with the treatment of the patient's respiratory disorders~~,

storing as a function of time information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient, and

correlating ~~relating to each other the information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient, and the patient's breathing recorded events, and associated with the treatment of the patient's respiratory disorders so as to determine changes in the cardiovascular condition of said patient, and~~

determining changes to said patient's cardiovascular condition relative to changes in breathing and changes in delivery of positive airway treatment.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for treating respiratory disorders and simultaneously monitoring a patient for indications of cardiovascular disease in accordance with claim 5 wherein said step of detecting and recording breathing-related events associated with the treatment of the patient's respiratory disorders includes detecting and recording data related to at least one of apneas, hypopneas, partial obstructions, snoring, pressure versus time, flow versus time, and leaks.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for relating to each other cardiovascular and sleep disordered breathing conditions of a patient with a pressure delivery device which records patient condition comprising the steps of

monitoring and recording heart rate and/or detailed echocardiogram data continuously or periodically

together with patient breathing and sleep disordered breathing treatment information on similar time scales, and

correlate ~~observing~~ changes in the patient's heart rate associated with changes in sleep disordered breathing and treatment ~~to relate to each other the cardiovascular and sleep disordered breathing conditions of the patient so as to determine changes in the cardiovascular condition of said patient.~~

10-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) A method for managing the care of an SDB and CVD co-morbid patient comprising the steps of: (i) evaluating a questionnaire on the sleep history of the patient; (ii) conducting overnight oximetry or sleep scoring of the patient and (iii) conducting a sleep study on the patient.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein the questionnaire includes questioning the patient whether they snore.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein the sleep study is unattended and includes an Holter monitor.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Withdrawn) Computer apparatus for assisting the care of an SDB and CVD co-morbid patient programmed to deliver prompts advising the carer to:

- (i) Conduct a questionnaire on the sleep history of the patient;
- (ii) Conduct overnight oximetry or sleep scoring of the patient and

(iii) conduct a sleep study on the patient.

23. (Withdrawn) Computer apparatus as claimed in claim 22 further comprising the steps of prompting the carer of the appropriate re-imbursement codes.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient includes information related to one or more of blood pressure, heart rate, oximetry data, electrocardiogram data, Holter analysis results, body mass index, left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), cardiac output data, and VO₂ max data.

27. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein information concerning the cardiovascular condition of the patient includes information related to one or more of blood pressure, heart rate, oximetry data, electrocardiogram data, Holter analysis results, body mass index, left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), cardiac output data, and VO₂ max data.